

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An e-mail communication~~ A method for establishing a voice communication within an e-mail communication comprising the steps of:

inserting a voice communications identifier in an e-mail message sent from a sender at a sending node to a recipient at a receiving node, wherein said voice communications identifier includes information to indicate that a voice communications link can be established between the sending and receiving nodes ~~comprises a selectable symbol for establishing voice communications by the recipient;~~

embedding within said voice communications identifier an executable voice communications link program code, said program code configured to execute within said receiving node to establish a voice communications link for transmitting and receiving voice communications over a voice-based communications network between said sending node and said receiving node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object;

transmitting said e-mail message to said recipient; ~~and,~~

displaying a selectable symbol corresponding to the voice communications identifier in the e-mail message received at the recipient for establishing voice communications by the recipient; and

responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol ~~voice communications identifier~~, establishing said voice communications link between said sender and said recipient

~~wherein, if said e-mail message is sent to a plurality of recipients, said inserting step comprises inserting a voice communications identifier comprising a plurality of selectable symbols, each symbol uniquely corresponding to one of the plurality of recipients, and wherein communications with one or more recipients can be established by selecting one or more corresponding ones of the plurality of selectable symbols, and wherein the voice communications are established only by way of accessing the selectable symbol in the e-mail message.~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 1, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a reference to said sender of said e-mail message.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol ~~voice communications identifier~~, executing said executable voice communications link program code in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol ~~voice communications identifier~~, determining a link address for said sender based on said reference, and executing said executable voice communications link program code at said receiving node in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 1, further comprising determining a voice communication capability between the sending and receiving nodes; and selecting one of a Voice over IP link and a public switched telephone network link based on the determined capability.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 5, wherein said link address is at least one of a telephone number and an IP address.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol ~~voice communications identifier~~, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol ~~voice communications identifier~~, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

10-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1, further comprising the steps of:

extracting embedded references to said sender and at least one other recipient of said e-mail message, said embedded references being extracted from said e-mail message; and,

displaying a corresponding selectable icon for each of said at least one other recipients.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of one of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient and determining a link address for said corresponding recipient based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said executable voice communications link program code in order to establish said voice communications link with said corresponding recipient according to said determined link address.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~e-mail communication~~ method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of two or more of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient for each selected icon and determining a link address for said corresponding recipients based on said extracted references; and,

executing said executable voice communications link program code in order to establish a conference call with said corresponding recipients according to said determined link addresses.

21-44. (Cancelled).